

The Shelby News.

AMERICANS SHALL RULE AMERICA.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1856.

Wonderful Growth of Iowa.—Governor GRIMES, of Iowa, in his annual message, makes the State's indebtedness \$128,000; available revenue \$240,000; received during the year \$200,000; paid out \$249,000. The population of the State in 1846 amounted to only 10,534; up to June, 1854 it increased to 326,914, souls. At the present moment it probably reaches 600,000. The assembled property in the State in 1851 was valued at \$28,464,550; in 1855 at \$106,895,290, and in 1856 at \$164,194,412. This is truly a wonderful growth, and shows to what greatness and wealth this young State is rapidly attaining.

Important Case.—The case of DRED SCOTT, a negro, vs. JOHN F. A. SANDFORD, on appeal from the U. S. Circuit Court for Missouri, in the U. S. Supreme Court, and which was not fully argued at the last term, was taken up for further argument on the 15th instant. Last winter we published the leading facts of the case, and have not the space at this time to republish them. The negro brought the suit to try his right to freedom. He claims to have been emancipated by his master having taken him to reside in Illinois, which act, as is declared by the Constitution of that State, operated to emancipate. The Circuit Court decided against the plaintiff on the ground that by his return to Missouri his master's right, dormant whilst in Illinois, was revived—that the Constitution of Illinois was a penal law, which the Courts of other States were not bound to enforce. Among the attorneys engaged in the case, we notice the names of MONTGOMERY BLAIR and GEN. T. CORTIS for the plaintiff, and REVEREND JOHNSON and HENRY S. GEYER for the defendant.

The case is particularly important, as involving the following points. 1st. Whether a free black man is a citizen of the United States, so as to be competent to sue in the Courts of the United States. 2d. Whether a slave carried voluntarily by his master into a free State, and returning voluntarily with his master to his home, is a free man by virtue of such temporary residence; and 3d. Whether the eighth section of the Missouri act of 1820, prohibiting slavery north of latitude 36 deg. 30 min., is constitutional or not.

The arguments in the case are reported by the telegraph; but they are necessarily brief and imperfect. If we can obtain a satisfactory synopsis of the arguments and the decision when made, we shall publish them.

Bigler's Speech.—We last week alluded to the speech of Senator BIGLER of Pennsylvania, in the United States Senate. It seems, by accounts from Washington, that the speech has caused the greatest excitement in the political circles of the national metropolis. His allusions to the "mad-caps" of the South, and "the Barnwell Rhett school of politicians," was not at all fancied by the southern supporters of Mr. BUCHANAN; especially as it is generally presumed to be the foreshadowing of the policy of the President elect on the slavery question.

The speech is reported by the "Globe," and is essentially freesoilish. The Senator declared that if he was himself a citizen of Kansas, he would vote against the introduction of slavery there, and gave the introduction to understand, that Mr. BUCHANAN would pursue the same course; and that, under the influences which will be paramount in the early future, Kansas is certain to become a Free State.

Letter writers from Washington say, Southern Senators looked aghast, when such expressions as these fell from the lips of the speaker; and the more they think of it, the more they don't like it, and the more they suspect that in electing Mr. BUCHANAN, as they have caught a Tartar. So let it be. Mr. BIGLER was dumb last week when the present debate commenced; but the Electoral Colleges have made up their record now, and the Senator's tongue can wag.

Col. Marshall's Speech.—On the 11th instant, Col. HUNTER MARSHALL delivered a short speech in Congress, which has set the Democracy in a great flurry. From letters from Washington to exchanges, we make the following extracts:

"Mr. Marshall deservedly ranks among the foremost men of the House in point of ability, and his effort to-day was a convincing proof of his great power in debate, experience, facility of resources and self-possession, amidst all manner of provoking interpolation. He stood his ground admirably, keeping hosts of assailants at bay, and commanding admiration on all sides, by the skill and energy with which he conducted the assault. The hall was thronged throughout, and though he labored under much disadvantage from impaired voice and physical exhaustion, he retired at the conclusion with conceded success."

"The debate in the House on Thursday last between Col. Marshall and a strong detachment of Southern Democrats has worried the outgoing administration more than I can describe. Col. Marshall is indubitably the ablest man and the best debater of his party in the House; and his irresistible charge upon the aggressive wing of the Democracy is felt to be the severest rebuke upon Gen. Pierce and his policy. What is quite noticeable is the fact that the Buchanan Democrats seem to enjoy the sport, and rendered not the slightest assistance in the defence of the party assailed by Col. Orr and two or three passionate but insignificant free-soilers. In point of fact they seemed better pleased than anybody else in the assembly and humiliation of that troublesome division of their allies."

Mr. Orr, of South Carolina, undertook to reply; but he got decidedly the worst of it.

Now is the Time.—The next number of our paper is the first of the eighteenth volume; therefore, now is a suitable time for persons to commence taking The Shelby News. Send in your orders, friends; to commence with the first Wednesday in January; and get as many of your friends as possible to unite with you.

Will You?—In order that the Editor of The Shelby News may have a good time, and be happy during the Christmas and New Year festivities, will all who owe him pay up arrears, and for 1857 in advance? And will each subscriber get another for us for next year? If these things are done, then we too shall have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Sales of Real Estate.—It will always afford us pleasure to record the pleasure to record the sales of real estate in our county and the counties adjoining. But we cannot do so, unless the sellers will furnish a memorandum of their sales.

The reported negro insurrection in Florida, the papers of Tallahassee say, was all smoke—a hoax.

COUNTERFEIT NOTES.—It is stated that counterfeit \$20 notes on the Bank of the Valley, payable at Stanton, are in circulation. They may be distinguished by the imperfection of the likeness of FILLMORE, and the words "Bank of the Valley," which are shaded. In the genuine notes these words are plain. The names of the officers are well executed.

PROGRESS OF THE AMERICAN SENTIMENT.—Gov. GRIMES, of Iowa, in his message a few days since, recommends a Registry Law for that State. We quote the passage in his message which refers to that subject: "Almost every person residing in any of the large towns in the State, acknowledged the imperative necessity of some law to protect the Ballot Box. That gross frauds are perpetrated at every election by the voting and double voting of unqualified persons is not to be denied. To remedy this great and constantly increasing evil, the passage of a Registry Law is respectfully recommended. Such laws have been in operation in several States for a period long anterior to the adoption of the Federal Constitution, and have fully answered their design."

This is but another evidence of the progress of the American sentiment.

About two weeks since the northern lakes and neighboring country were visited by a very severe gale, doing immense damage to the shipping on the lakes and the property on land. The Buffalo "Advertiser" publishes a detailed account of the effects of the gale, closing as follows:

We cannot close our chapter of accidents without a brief allusion to the utter failure of all whole-bone structures during this blow. Umbrellas went wrong side out in a most provoking manner, and so did criminals. Some of the ladies on the street, so far as information extends, went up (like angels as they are) but some of them presented the appearance of an umbrella turned wrong side out, with the stout handles instead of the usual slender stick.

PROSPECT OF SUFFERING IN LIBERIA.—Rev. J. BURNS, the Superintendent of the Methodist mission in Western Africa, writes from Monrovia, under date of October 15, as follows:

"There is now a strong probability that the ensuing twelve months will be rather a serious time throughout Liberia for bread-stuffs. This has been a very hard year, and produce of all kinds has been high. The misfortune is, that in many places, and for some weeks together, it could not be had at any price, hundreds among the natives even having died of want. There is every reason to fear that the next year will be much worse than this one. Rev. Mr. Seyes was well when last we heard from him at Cape Mount. The Lark will be despatched to the point in a few days to bring him down, with a view to his interment."

BROOKFIELD ESCAPED.—The case of the Commonwealth against William Brookfield, for stealing \$600 in gold, about three years ago, occupied from six to nine days of the Mason Circuit Court, at three different times—greatly to the cost, disappointment, and in some suits, the positive injustice and serious pecuniary loss of some litigants. The extraordinary determined defense made by able lawyers for him, and the strenuous efforts of his family and a few friends, prevented the final issue of the matter until the recent October court. He was then committed and sentenced to the penitentiary for three years—but by similar extraordinary efforts, got a hearing before the Court of Appeals, where the case was heard by counsel last week, and on Wednesday last was affirmed. The news reached here on Friday morning. Between 10 and 2 o'clock on Friday (last) night, he effected his escape.—*Mayfield Eagle.*

THE PROJECTED INSURRECTION.—The reports of a projected insurrection, which appears to have extended through a good many counties in southern Kentucky and contiguous counties in Tennessee, reaching as far as Gallatin, is pretty well quashed. The leaders, including some white men as well as negroes, have been arrested and severely punished, and several hung. One negro, at one of the Iron Works at Tennessee, said he knew all about the plot, but would die before he would reveal anything; and he died under the lash, after having received 750 lashes well laid on.

The excitement is dying out at the Iron Works, where it was greatest, and the general opinion is that the danger of insurrection is past; especially if due caution is exercised by the patrols and the investigating committees.

In our own county, so far as we can learn, up to this time, no proof has been elicited to cause the arrest and confinement of any slave, for being a party to the plot, although some have been suspected to some extent. The necessary measures have been adopted by the citizens of our town to bring to punishment any who may be proven guilty. All suspicion and evidence will be thoroughly investigated. A large and efficient police has been appointed to protect the town from this time till after the holidays.

Since the above was in type, we learn that considerable excitement exists in this county in the neighborhood of Volney and Gordonsville. A number of negroes have been arrested on suspicion, and two were brought to town on Monday evening and lodged in jail.—*Russellville (Ky.) Herald.*

Congress.—On the 15th instant the Senate, had under consideration the subject of eligibility of Mr. HARLIN, Senator from Iowa. It was referred to the Judiciary Committee. The bill to settle revolutionary claims was then discussed until adjournment.

In the House, Mr. Ethridge offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That this House regard all suggestions or propositions of every kind, by whomsoever made, for the revival of the African slave trade, as shocking to the moral sentiment of the enlightened portion of mankind, and on any part of Congress legislating or concurring at or legalizing that horrid and inhuman traffic, would greatly subject the United States to the reproach of all civilized and christianized people throughout the world. Objection was made to the introduction of the resolution.

On motion of Mr. Orr, the resolution was amended, simply declaring it inexpedient, unwise and contrary to the policy of the United States to repeal the laws prohibiting the African slave trade was agreed to, only eight voting in the negative.

DECEMBER 16. In the Senate, a call was made on the Secretary of War for copies of all letters addressed to that department or to Wilson Shannon, late Governor of Kansas, by Col. Sumner relative to Kansas affairs, which have not heretofore been communicated. A resolution granting further time to the Texas creditors to present their claims, was debated for some time.

Mr. Fessenden introduced a bill in addition to the act more effectually to provide for the punishment of certain crimes against the United States. Mr. Fessenden explained that it was intended to remedy certain defects in criminal law. It has been found that for the crime of manslaughter when committed on the high seas but the person not dying until he arrived on land there is no punishment. Instances have occurred where the individual committing such a crime has escaped on this ground.

The bill proposed a remedy for that defect. There was also an omission of a similar character with reference to the case of poisoning taking place at sea in which the person does not die until he reaches shore. For this crime there is no punishment in existing law. He alluded to the singular anomaly in criminal law, it being found that the offense of an assault with a dangerous weapon where death does not ensue is not punishable by three years imprisonment at hard labor; but the same offense when death ensues is punishable by three years imprisonment without hard labor, which seems very inconsistent with justice.

House.—Mr. Whitfield introduced a bill providing for an assessment of the damages sustained by the loss and destruction of property belonging to the citizens of Kansas during the recent disturbances in said territory. Also, a bill establishing a district court at Leavenworth City and other places in Kansas, and a bill establishing two additional land districts in Kansas.

Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, reported a bill amending the 28th section of the tariff act of August, '42, so as to provide for the importation of indecent and obscene prints, transparencies, statues, &c., the parties offending, to be proceeded against by due course of law and the articles destroyed.

The balance of the day was devoted to a discussion between the Black Republicans and Pierce men, about the President's Message.

DECEMBER 17. In the Senate, the bill allowing further time to the Texas creditors to file their claims, passed. Mr. Seaward introduced a resolution, which was adopted, requesting the Secretary of the Navy to report respecting his diplomatic relations with Nicaragua, and expressed an opinion that this Government had made a mistake from beginning to end concerning the Central American question. Wishing to refresh the recollections of the past, he spoke of the importance, as recited in the President's special message of May last, of having a peaceful passage between the two oceans, to be secured by friendly relations with Nicaragua, and dwelt at length on the intestine troubles in Central America to show England's agency in fomenting the existing warfare, she having supplied the Costa Ricans with arms to be directed against Nicaragua; whose minister we had received. The English Government had always assumed a right to control the fate of that country in order to protect her own commercial and political purpose. He insisted on the importance of having some settled understanding with Central America, as through that country we must have a transit to the Pacific to enjoy the rich trade of the East. He spoke at length, defending Walker, as the head of the existing government that had a right to rule in Nicaragua.

House. The entire session was taken up with the discussion between the Democracy and the Black Republicans.

Dec. 18. In the Senate, Mr. Hale offered a resolution directing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency of discontinuing further appropriations for the Military Asylum in the District of Columbia; what is the annual expense and manner of supporting soldiers; there, whether a more complete mode may not be adopted at much less expense, by direct payment in money, by boarding them at private establishments, or by affording relief to some extent, by the military Asylum at Harrodsburg, Ky., and report, if desirable to retain either, which; and further, whether the Asylum at Harrodsburg may not be beneficially removed to California. Resolution passed.

Mr. Stuart presented a memorial from Collins & Co., requesting Congress to pass a law terminating their contract for carrying the mails to England.

Mr. Jones of Tennessee, spoke at length on the slavery question.

House. The telegraph reports scarcely anything of note except to discuss the slavery question.

Dec. 19. In the Senate, Mr. Wilson, after the morning business, occupied the whole day in his speech on the slavery question.

House. Various Senate bills lying over from the last session were referred to the appropriate committees, including a bill authorizing the people of Kansas to form a constitution and State Government.

From the Lexington Observer and Reporter.

THE REMOVAL OF JUDGE LECOMPT.—We have heretofore noticed the appointment of JAMES O. HARRISON, Esq., to the office of Chief Justice of Kansas Territory, and spoken of the appointment, however, as a consequence of the removal of the Hon. SAMUEL D. LECOMPT, the Chief Justice of the Territory, and the cause of his removal deserves some consideration.

A few weeks ago, a man named Charles Hays shot and killed another named David Buffum. The Grand Jury of the Territory, being in session at the time, found a true bill for murder, and he was arrested and put in prison to await a final trial by a jury of his country. His counsel, however, believing the case to be one of manslaughter and not of murder, caused him to be brought before Judge Lecompt, upon a writ of habeas corpus, who, after hearing all the testimony in the case, admitted the accused to bail in the sum of one thousand dollars, a bond for which he gave and was set at liberty.

Gov. GEARY, so soon as he heard of the action of the Chief Justice in the case, issued an order to the Marshal of the Territory, commanding him to re-arrest Hays, and keep him in confinement until he should be discharged by a jury of his country. The Marshal of the Territory, I. B. Donaldson, declined to obey the mandate of the Governor, for the following reasons: 1st. As a ministerial officer, I am unwilling to arrogate to myself the power to contravene or set aside the acts of a Court of Justice, even if I disapprove of the act of such Court, and more especially as I am not advised of any law conferring such power upon me.

2d. Because I am clearly of the opinion that I may act would be in violation of the law I have sworn to support and execute.

3d. In making such arrest, without a legal warrant or other circumstances as would otherwise justify it, it is most clear to my mind that I would lay myself liable to a suit of damages which might involve and ruin my securities.

The foregoing reasons and my own convictions of duty as a law officer have irresistibly impelled me to this decision.

The Marshal adds: "Your determination, as expressed this evening (if I refuse to execute your order) to suspend me or procure my removal from my office by the President, induces me to say that I had, some days since, determined to discontinue my present official relation to the Territory, and I now desire the favor of you to assure the President of my gratitude for his confidence and kindness, and ask him to relieve me from my present position as soon as may be convenient."

The President forthwith removed the Marshal, and appointed Mr. Spencer, of Ohio, to succeed him.

Upon the Marshal declining to obey the mandate of the Governor, Col. Titus, was sent out with six men by the Governor to re-arrest Hays, which they did, and he was taken again to Lecompt for confinement. Upon his being released in prison, his counsel set about to procure his release and Judge Lecompt, upon application, again issued a writ of habeas corpus, and again set him at liberty.

Upon this state of facts, as we understand it, the Administration acted, and removed Judge Lecompt from office.

It seems to us that Gov. Geary pursued a high-handed and unauthorized course in relation to this whole affair. The prisoner was entitled, as a matter of right, to this writ of habeas corpus, and the Judge had no right to refuse it. Upon being brought before him, it was the duty of the Judge to hear the facts and determine the question of the legality of his imprisonment. If the Grand Jury, who make up their verdict upon the ex-parte testimony of the Commonwealth alone, erred as to the degree of crime committed, Judge upon a full hearing of all the facts had a right to say so, and admit the prisoner to bail. He may not, therefore, in our judgment, go beyond the clear line of his duty in the course he pursued, and we again say that, not knowing of any power conferred upon the Executive to revise and annul the acts of the Judicial department of the Territory, we are clearly of opinion that Gov. Geary assumed powers not pertaining to his office, and violated his duty in ordering the re-arrest of the prisoner who had been discharged by due course of law, and by a legally constituted tribunal.

But the Administration, we have no doubt, determined to sustain Gov. Geary, right or wrong, and upon the issue thus presented have struck down the Chief Justice of the Territory. How far the slavery feeling may have entered into the decision of this question, (if at all) we are not advised. But Judge L. is known to be a decided advocate of slavery in the Territory, and has incurred denunciation of the free-soilers, who have repeatedly charged him with the persecution of free State men, and with granting extraordinary favors to pro-slavery men. It can scarcely be that he has been firm and decided in the avowal of his pro-slavery opinions, on all proper occasions, has brought upon him the displeasure of Gov. Geary; and yet we confess that stranger things have happened. We shall know more about the matter after awhile.

As every thing in relation to Kansas and its future destiny is of peculiar interest at the present moment, we may add that letters from free-soil sources in Kansas claim that Gov. Geary has changed front upon the subject of slavery, and has taken ground in favor of freedom in the Territory. We have not time to go into the details of either the statement is true or not; but that it is so made, will be found by the annexed extracts from the Kansas correspondence of the Cincinnati Gazette:

LEAVENWORTH CITY, Friday, Dec. 5.—Col. Buford, who, at the opening of the land sales, commenced bidding as though he intended to buy up the whole tract, yesterday offered to sell out. He finds, on examining his lands, that he has been badly bitten, having bid off nearly all the ledges and bluffs in the tract. In addition to this, he has appointed that the pro-slavery men did not buy any extensively, and does not hesitate to declare to his friends that Kansas will be a Free State, and that further efforts on the part of the South are useless. Col. Titus has also declared that it is useless for the South to attempt to establish slavery in Kansas.

As the ice is running in the river, and the prospect of a boat very uncertain, the Colonel yesterday started forty of his Nicaragua volunteers to Jefferson City in wagons—the remainder he is sending in today by Parkville, (thirty miles below here) where the steamer Australia is now waiting for them. With them depart the last hopes of the pro-slavery men in Kansas.

Governor Geary, having become satisfied that he can make nothing by adhering to the pro-slavery cause, has become a Free State man. He has taken steps to have all the officers in the Territory, except Cato, (who is so pliant that he can use him for his purpose) dismissed. Woodson will come next.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.—It appears from the Postmaster General's report that the number of post offices in the Union on the 1st of June last was 25,662. Of these, 339 have an income of over \$1,000 per annum, and the postmasters are appointed by the President, subject to the confirmation of the Senate. The total compensation of the postmasters was, for the last fiscal year, \$2,102,890. The number of mail-route contractors was 6,372; of mail agents 394; and of mail messengers 1,108. The mail was carried over 20,323 miles by railroad, over 14,951 miles in steamboats, over 50,453 miles in coaches, and over 153,915 miles by inferior conveyances. The cost of transportation for each mile travelled by, by railroad, 10.6 cents; by steamboat, 20.3 cents; by coach about 7 cents, and by inferior conveyances nearly 8 cents per mile. The total cost of mail transportation for the current year, including the salaries of agents and messengers, but excluding the ocean service, is \$6,576,128.

The Postmaster General reports his complaint of the large amount paid to the Pacific Railroad, amounting for the last fiscal year to \$141,308, and for the first quarter of the current fiscal year to \$44,308. He recommends an act limiting the amount to be paid for that service to \$50,000, and an appropriation of \$200,000 towards a semi-monthly mail, via Nicaragua or Tehuantepec, giving, with the Panama route, a weekly mail to California.

The total expense of the department for the last fiscal year was \$10,465,286. The entire revenue, including the annual amount of \$700,000 for mail service rendered the Government, was \$2,620,801, showing a deficit of \$2,787,046, which considerably exceeds the average of the preceding three years.

The expenditures for the current year are estimated at \$10,658,678. The revenue at \$2,691,794.

The foreign mail service occupies a large part of the report. No postal convention with France has yet been concluded, though provision has been made for the transit conveyance through England to France, Algeria, and all those parts of Turkey, Egypt, and the Levant, with which France has a postal communication, of books, newspapers, and other printed matter, upon prepayment of the same rates of United States postage as are chargeable on the same matter when sent directly to France.

A proposition from Great Britain is pending to reduce the inter-ocean postage between the two countries to twelve cents the single letter, or one-half the present rates, but is yet delayed, in consequence of another proposition attached to it as a condition that the transit charges on all British and American mails passing through the two countries respectively shall be reduced to a uniform rate of 12 cents the ounce, without which the proposed reduction of postage would, in the Postmaster's opinion, operate greatly to reduce the receipts of the United States mail ship lines.

Arrangements have been completed with the postal authorities of Great Britain and Canada for a mutual registration of valuable letters.

Postal conventions are pending with Holland and Mexico, and an informal arrangement has been concluded with Hamburg for an exchange of mails by the Hamburg steamers; but only letters to Hamburg itself can be sent by this conveyance.

The aggregate postage, foreign and domestic, on mails transmitted by the United States steamship lines, was last year \$1,035,740, a falling off some \$25,000, as compared with the previous year. Deducting the inland postage, the net revenue from ocean postage by the Collins line was \$339,749, by the Bremen line \$58,492, and by the Haver line \$71,881.

The total amount of letter postage on British mails was \$397,648, on Prussian closed mails \$290,578, and on Havre mails \$16,915. The Postmaster claims that the system of optional prepayment works unfavorably to the United States, the option of not prepaying being disproportionately availed of abroad, which throws the trouble and expense of collecting almost the entire postage, and of accounting to the foreign countries for their share of it upon the United States post office department.

The abolition of the franking privilege is urged, or else that the charge on all letters to be charged the government the ordinary rates on franked matter; also the abolition of the fifty per cent. deduction on the postage of periodicals paid in advance.

These changes, and the relief of the department from the burden of the ocean mail service, the Postmaster General thinks that his department would support itself.

As to the ocean mail steamers, the Postmaster General does not understand why some of them should not start from other ports than New York, for more general convenience.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.—The new steam frigate Washab, Capt. Theodore Engle, the flag ship, the sloop-of-war Saratoga, Commander Tilton, and Cyane, Commander E. G. Robb, form the Home Squadron, which is still under the command of Commodore Paulding.

The Brazil Squadron, Commander French Forrest, consists of the flag ship St. Lawrence, Capt. Hall, and sloop-of-war Germantown, Commander Lynch, for whose return orders were issued on the 31st of October last. The Falmouth will join the squadron in a few weeks.

The Mediterranean Squadron, Commodore Breeze, consists of the flag ship, the frigate Congress, Capt. Craven; the sloop-of-war Constellation, Capt. Bell; steam frigate Susquehanna, Capt. Sands. The store ship Soler, Lieut. commanding Porter, is in the Mediterranean on a special service under the War Department.

The African Squadron, Com. Crabbe, is composed of the flag ship, the sloop-of-war San Jacinto, Commander Bell; the sloop-of-war Leeward, and Portsmouth, the sloop-of-war Commodore Perry, and the sloop-of-war the brig Dolphin, Commander Thompson. The squadron were all well at last advices.

The East India Squadron, Commodore Armstrong, is composed of the flag ship, the San Jacinto, Commander Bell; the sloop-of-war Leeward, and Portsmouth, the sloop-of-war Commodore Perry, and the sloop-of-war the brig Dolphin, Commander Thompson. The squadron were all well at last advices.

The Secretary regrets that Commodore Mervine failed to make a personal examination of the supposed guano island, and recommends that another small steamer be sent to visit the islands.

Reference is made to the protection of our citizens in the Pacific vessels of this squadron. An additional Pacific Squadron is recommended. Ongoing commerce, and the increasing importance of the Central American States, renders it politic to double our Pacific squadron as soon as vessels can be assembled in that ocean.

The Behring's Strait Expedition having completed its work, has returned.

A large portion of the report is devoted to survey which has been done by the bot-

tom of the sea; and the scientific discoveries in this exploration of the great deep will be found deeply interesting. Specimens have been produced from the bed of the ocean, and beautiful charts made mapping out its depths at distances of thirty, forty, sixty, and one hundred miles. The greatest depth obtained was two thousand and seventy fathoms—two and a half miles.

Under the head of ordnance gunnery, the Secretary recommends the establishment of a practice ship, in which gunnery alone shall be taught.

The great beauty and superiority of the new steam frigates are alluded to with much pride, and the Secretary says their introduction constitutes a new era in the history of the United States Navy. He repeats his recommendation of last year about the building of several additional sloops-of-war.

The subject of enlistment and the good faith of the government towards the sailors is elaborated at length, and the policy of the department defended and explained. This, however, is of no interest to the general reader.

There are three vacancies in the grade of captain and fourteen in that of lieutenant, some of which occurred several months since. Mr. Dobbin is not unmindful of the causes which prompted a suspension of executive action, but the interests of the service require that they should be filled either by promotions in the regular way or by nominating for restoration to the active list some of the reserved or dropped officers.

The Navy Academy continues to prosper, and demonstrates its usefulness. The Secretary recommends that, in addition to the Naval Board of Examiners, a board of visitors, composed of civilians, be appointed.

Mr. Dobbin renews expressions of opinion of the usefulness of the Marine Corps, and continues to recommend its enlargement, and the adoption of some plan of appointment to it officers of military education.

The following are the estimates of the navy and marine corps for 1857—\$—\$91,929,095. Expenditures during the year 1855-6, \$88,437,736.97.

COMPLIMENT TO AMERICAN MECHANICS.—The English Commissioners of public works, at Whitehall, London, have invited proposals from American Architects for designs of public buildings for government.

Kansas.—On the 16th instant, President PIERCE laid before Congress a letter and a copy of a journal from Gov. GEARY of Kansas. It appears by GEARY's journal that the Free State men complained that none but Free State men were arrested and cast into prison, but where pro-slavery men were arrested for crime they were discharged. While Gov. GEARY was addressing them, to convince them they were in error, and while eulogizing the impartial administration of justice, the news arrived of the release of HAYS, the murderer of BUFFUM, whereupon Gov. Geary fearlessly pronounced the act of Judge Lecompt, in discharging Hays, against whom the grand jury had found a bill of indictment, for murder in the first degree, as a judicial outrage, without precedent, as well as discreditable to him, as he had been the means of arresting Hays, and he should have been consulted; that the act was greatly calculated to endanger public peace, and destroy the entire influence of feeling which he was laboring day and night to inaugurate here, and bring the court and the jury into utter contempt; that he would treat the decision of Judge Lecompt as a nullity, and proceed, upon the indictment for murder, to re-arrest Hays, as if he had merely escaped; that he would submit the matter to the President, being well assured that he would permit no judicial officer here to forget his duty and trifle with the public peace, by making a decision abhorrent to public justice, and grossly steeped in partiality.

A Bloody Affair in Illinois.—The Rochester (N. Y.) American publishes an extract from a private letter dated Monmouth, Warren county, Illinois, December 12, relating the particulars of a bloody occurrence which took place there. We quote:

A bloody tragedy was performed at the "Baldwin House" in this city this afternoon. I was conversing with a gentleman in Dr. Taylor's Drug Store, about two o'clock, when the terrible cry of murder was heard, and we all started out to discover the cause. We were soon directed by the throng of people to the above named hotel, distant only a few yards, and there, weltering in their blood, lay the victims of the most sanguinary single-handed conflict it has been my lot to witness. It is impossible to describe the horror which depicted the visages of that throng of spectators called there at a moment's warning. The circumstances are as follows: A Mr. Fleming, an elderly gentleman, and two sons about 25 to 28 years of age, had called upon Mr. Crozier at his rooms at the Baldwin House, armed each with a loaded pistol, to coerce the latter gentleman into a concession and retraction of a calumny affecting their daughter and sister, with which they charged Mr. C.; who, after some pretty warm language had passed between the parties, agreed to and did sign a retraction in the presence of a friend whom the Flemings had brought with them.

Immediately after delivering the paper into the possession of their friend, the Messrs. F., or one of the brothers said to Mr. C., "I am going to cow-hide you," and one of the boys holding a cocked pistol in his hand, directed the other to inflict the threatened punishment, which he immediately commenced. He had struck three or four blows, when C. pulled a dirk-knife from a side-pocket, and passing at the same time his left arm around the neck of the one who plied the lash, stabbed him in the left breast, and as quick as thought, withdrew the knife and struck the one who held the pistol a back-handed blow which reached, as did the first, to the heart of his victim.

Both brothers received their death wounds in less than two seconds, and were both bloody corpses in three minutes after they were struck. The old man had gone out into the hall and locked the door and stood upon the outside with a pistol to keep out assistance. The affair has created an immense excitement here, I assure you. The young man Crozier is under arrest, having surrendered himself into custody, and is to undergo an examination to-morrow.

The sympathies of the people are mostly with Crozier. He acts and looks the picture of despair. He is a young man, some 27 to 30 years old, and unmarried. He is said to have been engaged to the lady in question, who is at present out of the State. The other parties were respectable farmers, and two of them, I understand, members of the church in good standing.

EDGAR NEEDHAM'S MARBLE WORKS.—539 Jefferson Street, opposite Owen's Hotel, LOUISVILLE, KY.

At this establishment may be found a large and varied stock of MONUMENTS, VAULTS, TOMBS, STONES, Head and Foot Stones, Iron Railings, and every description of work suitable for Grave Yards or Cemeteries. The subscriber guarantees his work to be done in the best style, and has made arrangements to send his work to all parts of the country, where required to do so. No agents are employed, consequently the customer purchases at no agent's price. The Gold and Silver Mounting will still be conducted by Mr. Edgar Needham. All kinds of Jewels will be repaired neatly and promptly. Silverware made to order. Shelbyville, Sept. 3, 1856. 100568

T. E. C. BRINLY & CO., PLOUGH MANUFACTURERS, Simpsonville, Ky., keep constantly on hand, of their own manufacture exclusively, any quantity of SOID and STUBBLE PLOWS. They warrant their Plow to perform well, or return the purchase money.

CP All orders for Plows, left at the Druggist Hardware Store of Joseph Hall, Shelbyville, Ky., will be promptly attended to. R. C. BRINLY & CO. 6719

The "Pennsylvanian." Mr. BUCHANAN's organ in Pennsylvania, has a carefully prepared article lauding Col. BENTON, which is presumed to be a bid for the Colonel's influence in support of the incoming administration.

FUGITIVE SLAVES IN CANADA.—We see it stated in the Canada papers that a movement is on foot in Canada to secure the passage of an act of Parliament by which fugitive slaves may be sent back to the United States.

THE "Pennsylvanian's" article, breaking ground in favor of Col

The Garland.

From the New York Journal of Commerce.

Of all the stars our German brothers brought us,
Long since across the sea,
Best to love the simple things they taught us,
Linked with the Christmas Tree.

The servant customs of an age departed,
Linger around them yet,
The German mother's faith, so earnest-hearted,
Her child will not forget.

In the dear Father land, each earth rejoices
To hail the Christmas morn,
Ere untold chimneys and neighbors' loving voices
Send gladly, "Christ is born!"

When'er the German hills, with fading glory,
The paring sunbeams shine,
Gild the green valleys, linked with feudal story,
And linger on the Rhine.

When comes the night, and softly shines in heaven
A love star, pure and clear,
To Christmas eve all joyous hopes are given,
The brightest of the year.

Then light and joy seem hovering o'er each dwelling,
From out to castle hall,
And children's voices cheerily are telling
The faith that's shared by all.

From rooms fast closed, come sounds of preparation,
Light through each crevice gleams,
While children wait, with glad anticipation,
To see the doors unclose.

The glad hour comes at last, to earnest glances
The full broad light streams out,
Then comes the sequel to their childish fancies,
To mingle hope and doubt.

Mid lighted tapers all so brightly blazing,
The Christmas Tree is seen,
It stands aloft, its laden boughs raising,
The glorious evening.

From every twig and spray suspended,
Shine sparkling Christmas gifts,
And there each child, with smiles and laughter,
Beholds the allotted treasure list.

The shining gifts, with many a gift are laden;
Where pleasant mysteries lie,
For father, mother, lover, child, and maiden,
For brother, kinsman, friend.

They say, "Oh, how I wish the Christ child linger
O'er every home this night,
Who brought His peace on earth,
Who taught the world to love and fight."

Alas! child, how true, it is in Him believing
Who brought His peace on earth,
Who taught the world to love and fight,
Who taught the world to love and fight.

It is the day of blessed glad exchange,
Sweet let its coming be,
Shall we not trust the Love and kindred angels
Hallow the Christmas Tree?

E. G. B.

Miscellaneous.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Morn.

By FRANKLIN BAKER.

A little cottage stood in a dark pine wood,
It was a wild December evening,
And the snow fell in large flakes on the
low roof, and the forest around. Light,
however, shone from a little window,
and lighted up the pine trees which stretched
forth their snow-laden branches toward
the casement, and lit up the dismal
world outside, where the wolf sat and cried,
hu, hu, hu!

The fire blazed merrily within the little,
one-roomed cottage, and merrily curled
the blue smoke as it rose from the chimney,
and fire sparks danced about with the snow
flakes which giddily tumbled down the
chimney into the pan of meal porridge
which stood and mumbled over the fire;
and there they were, the Christmas
entertainment. For it was Christmas
evening, and this was no other than Christ-
mas eve, and at this very time, food was
preparing for the whole of the household—
it was not food for the rich man's table,
that you may be sure; it was only for a
poor peasant woman, and she a widow, who,
with her children, lived here. Neverthe-
less, she was about to celebrate Christmas
in the best way she could, and that was
not to be despised, either. She had bought
for herself three pounds of meat, and this
was now boiling furiously with parsley
and celery, and promising to make the
most savory soup, together with some de-
licious cabbage, for Christmas day.

A piece of stock fish also was lying in its
pan, and was all in an agitation, as if from
delight of its own excellence.

On the table in the cottage there already
stood the Christmas cake, and the
Christmas goblin, that wonderful beast
which seems to say, "if you come here I
will give you with my long, long horn!"

And thus went the whole of the Christmas
holidays, and make no mistake among
the Christmas morn, and then when the
festive time was over, it would be laid,
together with the Christmas cake, in a chest,
where it would repose until spring came,
and the ploughing began, and then they
would take it and chop it to pieces, because
the Christmas goblin is a hard piece of
clay, and they give it to the beasts of bur-
den, to the oxen and horses, which have to
work in the fields, and which, it was be-
lieved, would derive from the Christmas
cake and goblin, such strength, and such
an inclination for labor as nobody could
believe. Hence there would be abundant
crops in the barn, a deal of grain for the
mill, and plenty of bread in the cupboard;
and all this would be caused by the Chris-
mas goblin—that wonderful beast!

Two children, a girl and a boy, jumped
about the room, and could hardly contain
their joy on account of Christmas eve, and
the Christmas goblin, and the Christmas
morn which were cooking on the hearth,
which filled the whole room with their
delicious odor, and the account of the Chris-
mas matins, at which they were present
with their mother. Brother Peter
was to drive them in the sledge with Polle;
the children had never yet been out to
Christmas matins, and could not imagine
what they were like, but they had heard
that they were something very grand and
beautiful, and they were quite sure that
they were so, and moreover, that they were
prodigiously amusing.

Peter, however, stood cutting firewood
for baking, and thought to himself that they
were not at all amusing. The mother
stood just by the door, and busy. Why
did she stand so close to the hearth, and
turn her face from the happy children?
The flames on the hearth, why they
saw that her countenance was not happy,
and that there were tears upon her cheeks.
Why did she turn her face away from her
children? Because she would not cast a
shade on their happiness. She could not
help it, however; she could not help think-
ing of her husband, who died two months
before, and how he was when he last Chris-
mas, when he was alive, and how kind he
was, and how he comforted her in his last
moments, and said that if it were neces-
sary that either husband or wife must be re-
moved by death, how much better it was
that it should be the husband, because the
wife would look after the children so much
better than he could.

The wife, however, now felt her lot to
be a very heavy one, and had many an
anxiety for the future, and most of all on
account of the eldest son, her step-son Pe-

ter, who hitherto had been out at service,
but who had now come home, since the fa-
ther's death, to help the mother in per-
forming the village service. And now,
precisely this very evening, to put away
all anxious thoughts, precisely now have
they all come thick upon her, as thick and
uncaring as the snow flakes, and when
she shook them off, behold! there they
were again the next moment, and made
her heart so heavy—so very heavy! Will
it be, as it were, under an evil spell?

But the children, little Erik and Maja,
they could think about nothing that was
gloomy.

"Nay, only look at the goblin, Maja!—
See how he glares at you with his big
eyes! Take care! he will gore you with
only touch him. He says, 'if you come
here I will run you through with my long,
long horn!'"

"Nay, do you believe that he will gore
me? do you really believe that he is alive?
Ah, how good that meat smells! Will it
soon be ready, mother? May we soon go
to bed, and tell her that it is Chris-
mas eve and look at the stars!"

Yes, the supper was now quite ready—
The mother lighted a candle in the lan-
tern, and around the candle she put a
grand paper star, which the candle lit up,
and which, in its turn, lit up the candle—
The children then took each their bread-
cake, and the mother filled a jug of new
brewed Christmas ale, and with the lan-
tern in her hand, went out to the stable
yard to let the creatures know that it was
Christmas.

The demure Mrs. Cowslip, the cow, was
thinking about nothing; she was standing
in her stall, chewing her cud, as the door
opened, and a light flashed into her eyes.
She turned towards that side, and made a
low moaning, in token that she recognized
those who had entered, and that they were
welcome. But when the children in their
zeal sprang forward, and gave her pieces
of their bread, and screamed into both her
ears, "it is now Christmas, Cowslip!" she
stepped hastily backwards, shook her
head violently, and stared, as if she would
say, "Nay, but that is something out of
the common way!" and looked quite con-
founded.

But as Cowslip was a very rational and
intelligent cow, she collected her faculties,
extended her nose, smelt at her bread, took
it into her mouth, and chewed it with an
excellent relish, supped up a good draught
of Christmas ale, and appeared quite sat-
isfied with Christmas. When the mother
had strown her a bed of fresh straw, and
given her an armful of the very best and
finest hay from the rack, she said, "God
keep thee now, my darling; thou now hast
had Christmas eve! At these words,
Cowslip seemed rightly to comprehend the
meaning of the great migrant look of
joy in her mouth, she laid herself easily
down again, that she might the better re-
flect, upon which she stared at the light,
and had her own musings about the stars,
which the children tried to make her ser-
vant of. But the only reply she made
was by a gentle lowing. After that they
carried the light to the stable, that it might
shine upon Polle, and that they might give
him a taste of Christmas bread, and an-
nounce to him that it was now Christmas.

Polle pointed his ears, and lifted his
head; expanded his nostrils, and neighed
with animal joy, as if he wished to make it
known that he expected this intelligence,
and that it was welcome to him.

The sheep bleated, and licked the hands
that gave them their Christmas entertain-
ment. It was so good, so very good!

As for the two little pigs, they were
quite out of their senses when their turn
came; they leaped about, screamed, and
tumbled one over the other, so that nothing
rational could be done with them. They
were regularly crazy with joy.

After this the mother and her children
retired to the cottage. The son, Peter,
was also there. He was a tall youth of
sixteen, with a dark and strongly marked
countenance. The mother cast an anx-
ious glance upon him. Since she had come
into the family, she had had a deal of trou-
ble with his obstinate and discontented
temper, which appeared to have become
worse since his father's death.

And this evening, when the mother had
desired him to chop wood for Christmas,
he had replied, "I must do everything!"
and as he went out, he banged the door
with violence, that the earthenware
cups and dishes upon the shelf jingled, and
shook a long time afterwards. That an-
grieved the mother, who knew that
she never spared herself, and never
required much from him.

He now sat down with his arms propped
on the table, and never seemed to ob-
serve that the mother was setting out the
supper, and that she had done everything
well.

But when they were all seated at the
table, and the mother had poured out the
Christmas ale, the little ones glanced at
each other, and then at their mother, with
a roguish look that seemed to say, "now it
is coming!"

And with that the mother lifted her glass,
and the little ones their wooden mugs, and
all three at once exclaimed:
"Your health, Peter!"

Peter looked up, and seemed almost as
much astonished as Cowslip herself, when
they told her that it was Christmas.

"And all happiness to you on your birth
day, for upon this evening you were born!"
said the mother.

To which Peter replied with a look of
displeasure, "That is nothing to drink
one's health about, or to wish one luck
about, either! It would have been better
that I had been unborn!"

"That is a sinful word, my son," replied
the mother, severely. "When God gives
health and strength to bear, to strive, and
to work—"

"Nay, but why must one strive and
work?" interrupted Peter.

"My dear lad, what questions you ask!"
said the mother, "must not people live?"

"And why must they live?" asked Pe-
ter again.

The mother could not instantly find an
answer to this question; it distressed her;
but the lad often made use of such ex-
pressions as left a great weight upon her mind;
and as she was now silent, Peter continued:
"When one has neither father nor mother,
nor any in the world to live for, it
would be just as well if one were dead;
then one would be rid of one's trouble."

"Am I not your mother, Peter?" said
the mother, and tears started to her eyes.

"You're only my step-mother!" said Pe-
ter, immovably, and rose up from the table.

This would have been the end of the
thing, because the mother more than any
other, knew in her own mind, that her heart
had always been full of tenderness and maternal affection to-
wards her step-son, and that she did not de-
serve this unkindness from him. But she
could not say anything now, nor
look away, because it was Christmas eve.
The little ones did not understand what
was amiss with their brother. Their
months were waiting for the good soup,
and they could not imagine that any one
could be better off than they were. When
the mother said that their appetites were
somewhat appeased, she proposed that
they should put aside a portion of their
supper for old Alle, in the poor-house,
which delighted them, and therefore the
mother tied up a part of their meat and
their bread-cakes in a clean blue handker-
chief, and set it on a shelf till the next
morning, when they went out for Chris-
mas matins. Peter, however, contributed
nothing; his countenance was sullen, and
before long he rose from the table, and
went to bed without saying "good night."

The little ones, also, soon lay side by
side, on a large heap of golden straw,
which they had brought in for Christmas,
because, according to popular belief, peo-
ple must both sleep and dance upon
straw at Christmas, if they would do right.
The children did not understand them-
selves, that they might be ready all the
sooner next morning, when they would be
called for the Christmas matins. Each
took a white handkerchief, which they laid
under their heads, and thus fell asleep, side
by side, while the fire-light flickered upon
them, and kissed their very cheeks, which
shone out quite beautifully upon the gold-
en-colored wheat straw.

Last of all, the mother also went to bed,
but not until she had set everything in
order in the room, and washed up the
dishes.

But though she now lay in bed, she
could not sleep, because she had uneasy
thoughts, and she heard how Peter turned
and seemed uneasy in his bed, as if he
could not sleep, either. At one time, she
thought that he wept, and she considered
with herself, "should I now get up and go
to him, and give him a quiet kiss, he would
then, perhaps, understand that I love him,
although I am not his real mother, and
more particularly as it is Christmas eve,
and every body ought to be friends."

Presently, Peter seemed to be quite still,
and then she thought, "he is gone to
sleep, and I shall only disturb him." She
therefore lay still, and turned her
thoughts to God, and prayed him to change
the unhappy temper of the youth. She
prayed for a blessing on him, and on the
beloved little ones. With that, she turned
round to look at them, and to see how the
firelight flickered over, and kissed their
rosy countenances, for the fire burned in
the hearth through the Christmas night—
And then she thought about all the ani-
mals, how they had their Christmas pro-
vider, and how comfortable they were;
and the thoughts of them did her good, and
while she was thinking of them, and gaz-
ing at her little ones by the firelight, she
went to sleep herself.

When she awoke, it was pitch-dark
in the room, and quite cold; and she felt
a great weight on her heart, and in her head
also. It was as if a large, heavy tear had
collected, and could not find vent, but lay
there as heavy as lead. She thought upon
the death of her husband, upon the bitter
temper of her son, and how solitary she
herself was in the world; and then Peter's
words occurred to her, "why should people
live?" and she felt as if she would
gladly not rise, but be quiet forever.

Spite of all this, however, she rose, and
lighted the fire as usual, and set the cof-
fee, for although she was not one of those
extravagant women who drink coffee every
day, yet now at Christmas time, every body
must have coffee; the whole household
must drink coffee; that was a matter of
course.

Then she lighted the candle in the Chris-
mas-tree by the window, which she had
made ready the evening before for the
children, and that done, she woke them.

"Christmas matins, children! Chris-
mas matins!"

The little ones started up, quite bewil-
dered, rubbed their eyes, opened their
mouths with an effort, saw the light burning
in the room, and then it came to their re-
membrance that it was Christmas, and
that they were going to morning service.
And with that they leapt up, and were quite
wakened.

They all drank their coffee, Peter as
usual, and then Peter, who, as
usual, was silent, and out of humor, went
to put Polle in the sledge.

When the mother came out of the cot-
tage, dressed in her holiday attire, with
her hymn book in her hand, and two little
ones at her side, she stood by the door, and
the morning star, standing brightly above
the pine wood, and shining beautifully in
the frosty early morning, and upon the
new-fallen snow. The sight did her heart
good.

"How beautiful," thought she, "after all,
has God made every thing for mankind!"
She inhaled the fresh, cold, but not very
cold, winter air, and felt her spirits en-
livened by so doing.

Polle was in the most cheerful humor,
he neighed, and pointed his ear, and tossed
his head, and his handsome head, and pawed
the snow with his foot, and was quite im-
patient to be off.

Before long, the widow sat with her
two little ones in the sledge, and Peter
stood between them and drove. Polle's
bells jingled merrily as they sped along
through wood and meadow; the morning
star shone upon the white, snowy fields,
and the grim wood. It was a beautiful
and cheerful sight.

The little ones were full of talk:
"Nay, look, look, look! There's light
burning at Stogel's, light in her opposite
window! And look! old Brita on the hill
has got a light too! And look there, a
long, long way off in the wood, there
shines a light! And look, look! Nay, that
is the very best of all—those candles in
the window at the gate house. See, it is
lighted the whole way! Nay, how grand
it is! Is it ever grander than this at Chris-
mas matins, mother?"

"You are two little simpletons!" said
the mother. "Christmas matins are grand-
er in another way."

By this time there were a great many
other people on the road, both driving and
walking, on their way to church. There
was quite a procession of sledges, and hear-
ing a jingling of bells as was delightful to
hear, and the children had enough to do to
listen to and ask questions.

They had by this time arrived at an open
tract of country, and just before them, with
its spire pointing towards heaven, and the
dark green wood behind it, stood the
church with lights streaming from every
window, as if within were a sea of light.
And at that very moment the church bells
began to ring.

The children were hushed into silence.
They felt a solemnity come over them—
They did not exactly know how they felt.
They were disconcerted. The church
bells, ringing, and light streaming out of
the church, but all around it was dark and
night-like. Along the whole extent of the

church walls on every side, sledges were
drawn up close together, the horses in
which were eating hay. Among these a
place was found for Polle; a covering was
thrown over him, and between him and the
church wall was laid a good bundle of the
very best hay—real Christmas provender.
Of this he ate; any body might have heard
how excellent he thought it.

The widow and the children walked ac-
ross the church-yard.

"Do you remember, children," said she
to them, "what I told you about the Chris-
mas matins, and what they mean?"

"They mean," stammered Erik, "they
mean that—that God will—"

"Who," interrupted the mother, "since the begin-
ning of the world sent teachers and wise
men to mankind to—"

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tend God's kingdom on earth, but become
also his laborers in the creation of a new
heaven and a new earth, where bliss shall
abide forever. This is a great saying, my
son, and can make the heart beat high and
free even in a mean hut. And this have I
known and believed from my youth up-
wards. But I have never heard it put
rightly into words until to-day."

Peter was affected to tears, he extend-
ed his hand to his mother, and said with
deep feeling, "Mother, forgive me, I have
caused you sorrow! From this time
it shall be otherwise!"

And from that time it did become oth-
erwise with Peter; not that he ever be-
came very communicative, or of a very cheer-
ful temper, but he became very industrious,
and very desirous of doing right, and every
body grew fond of him.

It was evident now, that Peter began to
take pleasure in life; at least, he never
looked sour or sullen. His whole appear-
ance was changed; nay, it often looked as
if something good within him, and so said
his little brother and sister.

"Now it is Christmas matins with Peter,"
they would say.

Many Christmas matins have since kin-
ded their lights, and since then a hand Christ-
mas has looked away upon the Chris-
mas board; it has since then been shut up in
a chest—thence brought out again to give
strength to the beasts at plough. Yes, many
a Christmas has, since that Christmas morn-
ing, come and gone; but the light that then
was kindled for the mother, has never been
extinguished.

Peter now lives as a peasant in Stogel,
and his mother lives with him, and he likes
to tell his friends what a sluggish and hard-
tempered lad he was, and about the Chris-
mas matins which produced such a change
in him, and how he has since then been
light, and strength, and pleasure in all his
work, and how every thing prospers in his
hands.

Thus Peter celebrates every Christmas
eve as his mother taught him. At Chris-
mas matins he may be seen before any one
else; and as for the Christmas goblin, he
never forgets that!